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55. In an optical scanner for scanning indicia, the scanner including a photodetector for detecting light of variable intensity reflected from the indicia and for generating an electrical signal indicative of the detected light intensity, an arrangement comprising:

a light source for emitting a laser beam;

a scanning element disposed in a path of the emitted laser beam and operative to reflect the laser beam in a scanning path for scanning indicia; and

a stationary multi-surface fold mirror having a first surface with a concave curvature positioned for collecting and reflecting the light reflected from the indicia for receipt by the photodetector, and at least a second beam shaping surface located substantially in a central region of the fold mirror and having a convex curvature for shaping the emitted laser beam, wherein the second beam shaping surface is positioned to reflect the emitted laser beam either as the beam passes from the light source to the scanning element or from the scanning element to the indicia.

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56. The arrangement of claim 55, wherein the light source is a laser diode.

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57. The arrangement of claim 55, wherein the second beam shaping surface is larger in area than the first surface.

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58. The arrangement of claim 55, wherein the convex curvature of the second beam shaping surface is cylindrical.

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